The Cork and Bandon line is near its completion, and the differences between the contractors and the company having been arranged, it is expected that the railway will shortly be opened for traffic.

The Waterford and Kilkenny Railway Company have got possession of 18 miles of the line between Jerpoint Station and Dunkitt.

The Tralee Board room is being enlarged, and sundry alterations made throughout the workhouse.

The new pier at Queenstown is to be on a site given by Lord de Vesci, and will consist of a stone mole, 100 feet to deep water, with a head 265 feet long, laid on a foundation of timber piles.

The first stone of a new agricultural school has been laid at Whitechurch, the estate of the Earl of Bessborough.

The pier of Ardglass harbour has been surveyed and examined, for the purpose of restoring it, and forming a harbour of refuge.

BEST ASPECT FOR HOUSES.

I am in the regular habit of reading your interesting journal, which lies on our club table (the Conservative.) Amongst the many useful and valuable suggestions which it contains, I do not remember seeing any observations on the economy, healthfulness, and superior comfort obtained in the erection of dwelling-houses (especially in the country) in a *southern* aspect, as regards the principal dwelling-rooms.

Economy—because in the winter and autumn months the sun generally supersedes for the time the necessity of large fires, from the genial warmth it gives to the *entire* apartment, as well as promoting ventilation and rendering it wholesome and agreeable.

Also, if windows were more frequently thrown out from the side walls to catch the sun east or west, or both, now that the window-tax is abolished, additional light, warmth, and cheerfulness would be gained.

Every body knows how unhealthy, cold, and dismal a room becomes with a northern aspect where no sun enters; and I would recommend this subject to the serious attention of medical men when recommending or suggesting situations for their patients.

From my own observations, I find that the aspect of the majority of dwelling-houses is east and west, than which nothing can be worse—too hot in summer, and too cold in winter.

Again, the shading of rooms by large trees suffered to grow too near our houses, is an evil much to be deplored.

In the arrangements of a house let the morning or breakfast-room be east, the drawing-room south, and the dining-parlour west—to commence with and follow the sun *all day*, and if in the midst of the summer, the setting sun is too hot and glaring, why, then use the breakfast-room as a *salle-a-manger*. G. C.

BRUNELLESCHI'S DOME.

Having called the attention of your readers to this dome as in part an instance of a Gothic one, I am anxious to lay before them the following, from Vasari's Lives, being an extract from Brunelleschi's own report to the syndics and wardens appointed to judge of the design:—

"The difficulties of this erection being well considered, I find that it cannot by any means be constructed in a perfect circle. Now it appears to me that those architects who do not aim at giving perpetual duration to their fabrics, do not even know what they are doing. I have, therefore, determined to turn the inner part of this vault in angles, according to the form of the walls, *adopting the proportions and manner of the pointed arch, this being a form which displays a rapid tendency to ascend.*"

Now it requires little argument to support the assertion that a dome built from the *proportions and manner of the pointed arch* is essentially Gothic, as the mere style of ornamenting it is comparatively unimportant. Further, Brunelleschi's adoption of a "form which displays a rapid tendency to *ascend*" is a sufficient proof that this great architect considered a dome to be an "aspiring feature in architecture;" nor do I doubt that his authority will have some weight with your ingenious correspondent, who argued for the *horizontality* of the dome, and denied that it was an aspiring feature as, we have shewn, Brunelleschi held it to be. H. T. B.

BUILDERS' DIFFERENCES.

Will you be good enough to insert the following tenders for a house in Gresham-street (Mr. S. Wood, architect)?—

Grimsdell	£6,929
Lucas	6,200
Hicks	6,183
Haynes and Co.	6,183
Cubitt	6,182
T. & W. Piper	5,987
Hayward and Nixon	5,977
Lawrence and Sons	5,740
R. & E. Cartis	5,731
J. Jay	4,973

Pray insert the inclosed tenders for building two villas, at Brixton, for Mr. W. Morris; quantities furnished:—

Abbey	£3,000
Gerry	2,988
Hague	2,698
Pilditch	1,866

A subscriber will esteem it a favour the following appearing in The Builder:—Tenders for alterations to house, Streatham-hill, for Mr. C. T. Gabriel.

Thompson	£1,130
Jewell	1,067
Ashby and Sons	1,047
Higgs	968
Lawrence and Sons	732

RECOVERY OF ARCHITECT'S CHARGES.

COCKERMOUTH CHURCH.

In the case of Clark v. Wyndham, tried at Carlisle before Mr. Justice Williams, which has been reported in The Builder, our readers will remember that the plaintiff obtained a verdict for 150*l*. In the present Term Mr. Cowling, as counsel for the defendant, moved to set aside the verdict for the plaintiff on the fourth issue, and generally to enter a nonsuit.

In order to understand Mr. Cowling's application to the Court, and fully appreciate the important point involved in it, it is necessary that the facts of the case be to some extent recapitulated.

This was an action of assumpsit, the declaration in which contained several counts, the first of which was a special one, framed to recover damages for the non-payment of a sum of money claimed for plans and drawings prepared by the plaintiff for the rebuilding of Cockermouth church. The church had been, in November, 1850, destroyed by fire, at which time a subscription was opened, and a committee formed for its re-erection, a member of which was the defendant, General Wyndham. The committee issued advertisements, offering premiums of 50*l*. and 25*l*. for the two best designs for such church. The plaintiff competed and sent in a design, which was rejected by the committee, who adjudged the premiums to two other candidates. The plans were, however, to be submitted to a vestry meeting, convened for that purpose, which being done, the vestry dissented from the committee's opinion, and decided in favour of the plaintiff's design. The committee thereupon advertised for tender, for building the church accordingly to the plaintiff's design, but imposed upon him these conditions, namely, that although he was to make the necessary plans and specifications for carrying out his design, yet, in case the estimate for the building should exceed 4,700*l*., exclusive of the commission and the salary of the clerk of the works, the plaintiff was neither to claim, nor to be paid, for his trouble and labour, and the committee was to be at liberty to decline his design. Four builders sent in estimates, only one of which was below 4,700*l*., and the committee not pledging themselves to accept the lowest tender, took no further steps in the matter, and this together with a dispute, which arose among the subscribers, had the effect of altogether postponing the erection of the church. The plaintiff thereupon brought his action for payment for the preparation of the plans, &c. At the trial the jury were of opinion that the lowest estimate might have been prudently acted upon, and found, as before stated, a verdict for the plaintiff for 150*l*.

The ground of Mr. Cowling's motion was, that the correct construction of the committee's resolution was, that they reserved to themselves the option of proceeding or not on the lowest tender, and not to leave it to the jury, to say, whether they (the committee) could have prudently done so. The Court, however, refused the rule, and in so doing stated its opinion to be, that the plaintiff's declaration was in substance the common count for work and labour in drawing plans and specifications, although it assumed a special form on account of the above conditions, imposed by the resolution of the committee. That, *prima facie*, the work being done by Mr. Clark, he was entitled to be paid for it, and that it lay on the defendant, as one of the committee, to show why the plaintiff was not so entitled. The Court remarked, that the contract was thus:—The plaintiff says, I have such confidence in my plans and specifications that I will undertake to receive nothing, if they cannot be fairly worked out for 4,700*l*. This action is not for commission, but for work and labour in drawing the plans.—Mr. Clark has therefore recovered 150*l*.

FITTING THE POOR FOR THEIR DWELLINGS.

I agree with your correspondent "J. B." that much of the misery in which so many working men's families live, is caused by the ignorance and untidiness of the working man's wife, together with his own improvidence; and I should rejoice if at all schools for the children of the poor, were taught the art of living comfortably on economical principles, and keeping tidy homes, as well as reading and writing: it might easily be done; and it is a most important matter, connected with the desire to make the children of working men useful members of society, and fitting inmates of improved dwellings, that we should so teach them.

But concurring so far with your correspondent, I must differ with him in his estimation of the wives of working men, and express my conviction that they are not such as he describes. I would say further, that, in London alone, we have tens of thousands of married poor women who only want the improved home,—the home that shall contain, in one dwelling, or one floor of a dwelling, a living room, two or three bed rooms, a scullery with sink and water, and a water-closet, to make that home at all times a comfortable one to the working man and his family; therefore do I trust that the good movement in that direction will go on, until every working man's family can command a separate tenement, or separate floor, with the conveniences of separate rooms, of water laid on to a sink, a water-closet, dust shaft, coal box, a slate pantry, and a distinct entrance; like those built by Prince Albert, in the barrack ground, facing the Great Exhibition. Speaking of which models, I would fain believe that good men have them in view as patterns for erecting such, or better, for the occupation of those whose improvement, physical and even moral, mainly depends on such provision. We are all deeply interested in the cause, for from such philanthropic undertakings most assuredly will proceed wide-spreading advantages to society generally.

I have only to add that the greater portion of the evils deplored by "J. B." *have been caused* almost entirely by the wretched, close, damp, undrained, and consequently unhealthy habitations, which the law has allowed to be built, and the poor to inhabit, for the last 100 years. Felix.

Books.

A Lady's Voyage Round the World: a selected Translation from the German of Ida Pfeiffer. By Mrs. Percy Sinnett. Longman and Co. 1851.

These two little numbers of "The Traveller's Library" contain, perhaps, one of the liveliest and most varied and entertaining, though at the same time simple and unassuming, narratives ever written since old Lithgow gave his travels to the world, before the present century began. Much of its interest, however, lies in tact

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